

An additional record of the Pale-footed Swallow *Notiochelidon flavipes* from Venezuela

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The Pale-footed Swallow *Notiochelidon flavipes* is a poorly known South American hirundine species. It is thought to inhabit a narrow elevation range from 1550 m to 3600 m in the Andes from northern Bolivia to Mérida, Venezuela (Meyer de Schauensee 1970, Parker & O'Neill 1980, Parker *et al.* 1980, Lentino 1988, Turner 1989, S. Hilty pers comm. 1993). Despite its extensive range, it is currently known from few museum specimens and few field sightings. We report here the second specimen of the species from Venezuela. This specimen shows a northward extension of its current known range, and that this species has been present in Venezuela since at least 1951.

The specimen reported here is number EBRG-1656, in the Museo de la Estación Biológica de Rancho Grande, Servicio Autónomo de Fauna del Ministerio del Ambiente, El Limón, Aragua, Venezuela. It was collected in 1951 by Ernst Schäfer at an elevation of 2300 m in Páramo La Cristalina 9 km northwest of Boconó, Trujillo (9°19'N, 70°20'W), and was originally identified as an "extreme individual variant" juvenile Blue-and-white Swallow *N. cyanoleuca* (Colección Ornitológica Phelps, Caracas, communication). We have re-identified it as a Pale-footed Swallow on the basis of plumage and size. The specimen has: a large pale rufous-brown patch covering the entire throat, brown cheeks, brown sides of the body, white central breast and abdomen, dark brown under tail coverts, pale yellow feet. The crown, nape, side of the head (down to the eyes), and back are blue-black with several glossy blue feathers. Although the specimen is in excellent condition, it should be noted that this is an old specimen and some foxing may have occurred. A comparison of the body measurements of the two species shows the specimen to be smaller than the similar Blue-and-white Swallow. The measurements are as follows: length (bill to tail) 95 mm, wing length 83 mm, tail length 28 mm. The wings extend beyond the tail and the tail is very slightly forked. Typical body measurements for the Blue-and-white Swallow are: length 120 mm, wing 88–102 mm (mean 94.2), tail 42–55 mm (mean 49.7) (Turner 1989). With the same equipment used in measuring the Pale-footed Swallow, the average body length of seven Blue-and-white Swallows housed in the Rancho Grande Collection is 117 mm.

This is only the second specimen to be taken in Venezuela and the 17th specimen in museums worldwide. The species was first observed in Venezuela in August 1985 in the city of Mérida in the state of Mérida, and the first specimen was obtained in December 1985 by Miguel Lentino R. in Betania, Páramo de Tamá, Táchira (Lentino 1988). There has been much speculation that this species may have occurred in Venezuela previous to these records and was mis-identified

in the field as the more common Blue-and-white Swallow (Lentino 1988, Parker & O'Neill 1980, Turner 1989). The 1951 specimen confirms that possibility. It is the first to be collected in the state of Trujillo, and represents a northern extension of this species' range of approximately 140 km.

Both professional and amateur ornithologists should be alert to the possibility of this bird's presence and look more closely at small blue and white swallows seen in open areas of primary forest above 1550 m (Lentino 1988, Parker & O'Neill 1980). All additional observations are sure to significantly augment our meagre understanding of the distribution and ecology of this swallow.

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Additional records of and notes on the Unicoloured Thrush *Turdus haplochrous*, a little known Bolivian endemic

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The Unicoloured Thrush *Turdus haplochrous* is an enigmatic species, known previously from only six specimens and one sight record relating